

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06606 01 OF 02 041657Z

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 ISO-00 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 /138 W

-----086930 041720Z /41

P R 041301Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9993

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 6606

USMTN

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STR FOR ACTION AND PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJ: MTN -- AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S CONSULTATIONS JULY 27-28

1. GENEVA SEPTELS 6523 AND 6514 REPORTED AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S MTN CONSULTATIONS WITH SWISS AND CANADIANS JULY 25/26 AND 29 (BEING REPEATED TO USEC FOR INFO). THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES AMBASSADOR WOLFF'S MEETING WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS DURING HIS VISIT TO GENEVA LAST WEEK.

2. AUSTRALIANS (AMB FOGARTY, RYAN, SPENCER) CALLED ON WOLFF AND VISITING WASHINGTON TEAM JULY 27 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING RESUMPTION OF GROUP AGRICULTURE WHICH HAD BEEN IN RECESS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06606 01 OF 02 041657Z

CONSIDER U.S. "REQUEST-OFFER" PROCEDURE TABLED JULY 19. DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON LATTER PROPOSAL WITH AUSTRALIANS EVIDENCING CONCERN THAT AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BECOME EXCLUSIVELY BILATERAL. WOLFF REVIEWED US-EC UNDERSTANDINGS AT TIDEWATER AND ASSURED AUSTRALIANS OUR PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS MOVING AND SEARCH FOR MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS IN VARIOUS GROUPS AND SUBGROUPS

WOULD CONTINUE AT ACCELERATED PACE IN FALL; WE EXPECTED SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AGRICUTURAL ISSUES LIKE SUBSIDIES WOULD HAVE TO BE PURSUED IN A PRODUCT-SPECIFIC CONTEXT BUT WITH AGREED RESULTS BEING FOLDED INTO AN OVERALL CODE ON SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAIL. U.S. SIDE URGED AUSTRALIANS TO PUT FORWARD CONCRETE NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS ASAP FOR PRUDCUTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THEM SUCH AS MEAT. U.S. SIDE ACQUAINTED AUSTRALIANS WITH DELICATE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN U.S. AND EC CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE "REQUEST-OFFER" PROCEDURE TO PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE THREE SUBGROUPS (GRAINS, MEAT, DAIRY) AND URGED THEIR COOPERATION IN AVOIDING AN ATTEMPT TO PIN THIS DOWN IN WRITING IN GROUP AGRICULTURE. (AUSTRALIANS SUBSEQUENTLY COOPERATED FULLY IN GROUP AG MEETING LATER IN THE DAY.) AMB FOGARTY NOTED HIS AUTHORITIES ARE LOOKING FORWARD WITH KEEN INTEREST TO THOROUGH REVIEW OF MTN WHEN AMBASSADOR STRAUSS VISITS CANBERRA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

3. WOLFF, BARRACLOUGH AND CULBERT LUNCED WITH DG LONG AND DEPUTY DG PATTERSON JULY 27. DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON STEPS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE AN AGREED TARIFF PLAN BY OCTOBER 1 TARGET DATE. WOLFF SUGGESTED EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO HAVE SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS WHO ATTEND CG-18 IN SEPT (SUBSEQUENTLY FIXED FOR SEPT 22-23) PLAN TO REMAIN IN GENEVA FOR SEVERAL ADDITIONAL DAYS TO WORK OUT (BILATERALLY AND PLURILATERALLY) A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR PRESENTATION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 06606 01 OF 02 041657Z

GROUP TARIFFS ON OR ABOUT SEPT 27 FOLLOWED BY SHORT RECESS TO ENABLE DELEGATIONS TO GET INSTRUCTIONS BY END OF THAT WEEK IF POSSIBLE. LONG AND PATTERSON WERE INITIALLY SKEPTICAL ON GROUND SOME CG-18 DELS WERE NOT THE ONE TO DECIDE ON A TARRIF PLAN FOR THEIR GOVTS AND THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT LEAKS CONCERNING BILATS AND PLURILATS (WITH NOSES OUT OF JOINT ON PART OF CG-18 DELS OUTSIDE THE INNER CIRCLE OF KEY REPS), BUT EVENTUALLY ACQUIESCED THIS MAY BE ONLY WAY TO GET SUFFICIENTLY HGH LEVEL ATTENTION TO PUSH MATTERS THROUGH BY OCT 1. THEY CAUTIONED AT LENGTH ABOUT LDC RESTIVENESS AT BEING FACED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI AND SIAD WE WOULD NEED S&D FOR TARIFF PLAN MORE FULLY SPELLED OUT THAN WAS THE CASE FOR U.S. REQUEST-OFFER PROCEDURE IN GROUP AG. THEY ALSO STRESSED NEED FOR INTENSIVE US-EC CONSULTATIONS EARLY IN SEPT IF PROPOSED SCHEDULE IS TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS. LONG AND PATTERSON WERE RECEPTIVE TO WOLFF SUGGESTION THAT COME SEPT ALL MTN GROUPS AND SUBGROUPS SHOULD CONVENE IN PERMANENT SESSION UNTIL END OF MTN WITH FREQUENT RECESSES SUBJECT TO RECALL ON SHORT NOTICE BY CHAIRMEN WHEN BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ADVANCED A PARTICULAR TOPIC FAR ENOUGH TO WARRANT A FULL GROUP MEETING.

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06606 02 OF 02 041604Z
ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01
TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 IO-13
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 6606

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4. BELGIAN DG ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (FOREIGN MINISTRY) GROOTHAERT,
ACCOMPANED BY BELG AMB NOTERDAEME AND SERVAIS CALLED ON
WOLFF AND WASH TEAM JULY 28 AND U.S. SIDE HOSTED LUNCHEON
FOR THEM. VISIT ARRANGED THROUGH U.S. EMBASSY BRUSSELS TO
MEET WITH BELGIANS IN THEIR CAPACITY AS EC PRESIDENCY.
GROOTHAERT MADE VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON WOLFF AND
OTHERS ON U.S. SIDE, INDICATING SINCERE INTENT TO COOPERA-
TE IN BRINGING MTN TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WITHING
TIME-FRAME WORKED OUT BY AMB STRAUSS WITH EC COMMISSIONS.
GROOTHAERT WAS WELL INFORMED ON STATUS OF KEY PROBLEMS IN
MOST AREAS OF MTN. AT SAME TIME, HE MADE NO SECRET OF
HIS DISQUIET ABOUT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BELGIUM AND
ELSEWHERE IN EC IN KEY SECTORS LIKE STEEL AND TEXTILES,
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06606 02 OF 02 041604Z

RISING UNEMPLOYMENT, AND -- ESPECIALLY -- GROWING EC RESTIVENESS ABOUT DECLINE OF U.S. DOLLAR (POINTEDLY NOTING HIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHARACTERIZATIONS OF U.S. POLICY AS "AGGRESSIVE NEGLECT" IN PARIS A DAY EARLIER). ALL THESE ELEMENTS DID NOT, HOWEVER, LEAD GROOTHART TO A DEFEATIST ATTITUDE (BELGIUM KNOWS ITS STAKE IN AN OPEN TRADING SYSTEM) BUT RATHER THAT WE MUST PROCEED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN PRAGMATIC/REALISTIC WAY.

5. IN ABSENCE OF JAPANESE AMB SAWAKI, A TEAM OF JAPANESE (UKAWA, TERADA AND UENO FROM RESIDENT DELEGATION, NOZAKI FROM FINANCE, UDAGAWA FROM MITI AND OKADA FROM MAF) CALLED ON WOLFF AND WASHINGTON VISITORS FOR TWO HOURS JULY 28. MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED TO BRIEF JAPANESE ON US-EC UNDERSTANDINGS AT STRAUSS-EC COMMISSION LEVEL AND AT TIDEWATER. WOLFF DID SO BUT IT WAS A ONE-WAY STREET WITH JAPANESE PUTTING A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS FOR CLARIFICATION BUT WITHOUT U.S. SIDE GETTING MUCH REACTION. ONLY EXCEPTION WAS CONFIRMATION BY UKAWA THAT A FIRM "NO EXCEPTIONS" POLICY (OTHER THAN U.S. MANDATORIES) FAVORED BY EC WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR JAPAN NO MATTER WHAT DEPTH OF CUT WERE FINALLY AGREED FOR TARIFF FORMULA.

6. WOLFF HOSTED A RECEPTION JULY 28 FOR SMALL NUMBER OF KEY LDC DELEGATES (ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ AND RAIMONDI, COLOMBIAN AMB JARAMILLO, EGYPTIAN MINISTER HAMZA, YUGOSLAV MINISTER TOMIC, INDIAN COUNSELOR HODA, BARTHEL ROSA OF BRAZIL, AND ADEWAKUN OF NIGERIA). WOLFF EXPRESSED U.S. APPRECIATION FOR LDC COOPERATION IN ACCEPTANCE OF "REQUEST-OFFER" PROCEDURE IN GROUP AGRICULTURE AND NTM GROUP THIS WEEK AND ASSURED THEM LDC'S WOULD BE FULLY CONSULTED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT TO GET THE MTN MOVING IN THE FALL. WOLFF NOTED U.S. INTERNAL REVIEW UNDER WAY TO PIN-POINT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 06606 02 OF 02 041604Z

FEASIBLE S&D AND ASSURED LDC'S THE ACCELERATED TIMETABLE WAS NOT DESIGNED TO IGNORE THEIR INTERESTS. WHILE THERE WAS NOT MUCH SPECIFIC FEEDBACK ON THIS OCCASION, ALL LDC REPS WERE IN CORDIAL FRAME OF MIND AND OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY TO GET U.S. VIEW DIRECTLY FROM WOLFF. CULBERT

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